You said that, in the interests of sanitation as well as in the interests of the fisher folk, it would be an advantage if Government pass some law whereby fish curing, except in public fish curing yards, will be prohibited. It is a very good ideal to have before us. But I do not think it is possible to do that in practice for some time to come. Unless you can afford to have fish curing yards along the whole coast line, it will be impossible to promulgate any such prohibitory order. It would be unfair and it would be impossible to carry out. As it is, Government are, year by year, increasing the number of fish curing yards and even this year, there is a provision for opening two new yards. As far as is possib'e, Government will try to work out the same policy; and in course of time, I hope that it will be possible to reach the ideal that you have mentioned. Means are also under the consideration of Government for giving some credit or banking facilities to fisher folk. I cannot say anything more than that, because it has not taken a definite form. All your representations and suggestions will receive Government's consideration.

36. Cottage Industries for Women.

MISS. PENINAH MOSES (*Nominated*) spoke about the urgent necessity of organising cottage industries for the benefit of women. Men and women numbered equally and the popu'ation was increasing by leaps and bounds and the problem of obtaining a living wage for men and women was becoming very acute. The numl er of qualified women was also on the increase, and many among them were unemployed. Hence the question of providing women with cottage industries was one of supreme importance and Government should take it up urgently, to give relief to the unemployed among women. The member suggested the following measures in this behalf :—

1. Encouragement of the cultivation of cotton and the introduction of spinning as a cottage industry.

2. Encouragement of knitting, lace-making and embroidery and needle-work.

3. Encouragement of the manufacture of toys, dolls and envelopes.

4. Introduction of the industry of fibre extraction, such as the fibre from plantain for weaving purposes, from cocoanut tree for coir, from palmyra tree for brushes and from the areca palm for carpets.

5. Encouragement of the manufacture of mats and baskets.

The Government should take practical interest and also render financial help in carrying out the above industries. A qualified woman should be appointed for organising and directing the cottage industries carried on by women. The Directress of Cottage Industries to be appointed should train a number of women of the country to organise classes in important towns, to begin with, where the women and girls should meet and learn the nature of the work to be done by them. These pupils should be supplied with the materials for the work. When

the finished products were returned by the women, they should be paid liberally for the work. The Industries Department should arrange for the sales of these articles by widely advertising them and by engaging local or foreign merchants.

The member also mentioned in this connection the great impetus given by the Y. M. C. A. Rural Demonstration Farm at Martandam, in the matter of Poultry Farming.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Miss Moses. I must first acknowledge the obligation under which you have laid the Government by the very valuable, useful and definite suggestions that you have made for the organisation of cottage industries, primarily, as you say, for women, but I believe, equally useful for men.

You have suggested several lines on which Government or the Industries Department of the Government may start work in organising and developing cottage industries. Some of them, I daresay, have been already considered by the department and by the Government as well. It has to be conceded that a very great deal more of systematic work can be done on these lines. You have suggested that, in the case of cottage industries for women, it will be advantageous to have a woman officer to develop and control that kind of work. Government will give their best consideration to that suggestion of yours.

You also suggested that, for the better and speedier development of cottage industries, it will be necessary for Government or for the Department of Industries to step in as an interim purchaser of the manufactured articles. If the sale of the articles manufactured is left to the poor manufacturer, it is likely that the manufacturer will get very small value for the work done. You therefore suggested that there must be some organisation which will undertake purchases of articles manufactured at some interim value and that accounts might be finally settled when the articles are sold. That is a very useful suggestion and, I may assure you, Government will give their earnest consideration to it. Your other suggestions will also receive the best consideration at the hands of Government.

37. Industrial loans.

MR. K. A. RAMANUNNI (*Nominated*) speaking in Malayalam, said that the economic prosperity of a country mainly depended upon its industrial advancement. Travancore was primarily an agricultural country. In the matter of industrial development, it had reached only the stage of infancy. There were sufficient facilities in the country for the advancement of industries. What remained to be done was the starting of new industrial undertakings and also rendering some financial help by the Government in their early stages. The Government should adopt a more liberal and definite policy in the matter of issuing industrial loans. The amount now allotted annually was not sufficient. It should be enhanced substantially. A small committee, consisting of officials and non-officials, should also be appointed to supervise the disbursement of the loans.